

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: AIRBENDER6.jpg

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1200593.007

Medium: Computer Image File

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: Not applicable

Applicant: Hamilton District Court

Classification:	Objectionable.
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Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 30 July 2012

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Summary of reasons for decision:

The computer image file is deemed objectionable because it tends to support the exploitation of children for sexual purposes.

The image is a sexually explicit illustration that appropriates a 12 year-old character from an anime television series and depicts the girl naked and involved in sexual intercourse with a male figure. The illustration is a parody, but it is nevertheless a highly sexualized image which perpetuates the idea that sex involving children or young people is an acceptable subject for entertainment. The availability of such material tends to weaken the social taboos that protect children and young people from abuse and has the potential to lead to their sexual exploitation.

The classification of this publication interferes with the right to freedom of expression set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. However, this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention and is a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression. The classification reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to protect its young and vulnerable members from sexual exploitation.